



MELFORD RURAL DISTRICT

in the

Administrative County of West Suffolk



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

including the

Report of the Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector

for the year

1968

To the Chairman and Members of the
Melford Rural District Council.

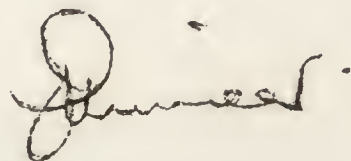
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the
Public Health Services for the year 1968.

I am grateful to the Chairman of the Council, and to
the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for
their courtesy to me.

I am grateful also to Mr. J.A. Shaw, the Clerk of the
Council, to Mr. J.A.E. Burrows, the Surveyor and Senior Public
Health Inspector and his staff and to other Council officials
for their help to me during the year.

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. A. E. Burrows', written in a cursive style.

Medical Officer of Health.

March, 1970.



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(May 1968 - May 1969)

Chairman Mr. R.C. Smith.

Vice-Chairman Mr. H.F.A. Engleheart, M.A.

Mrs. G.M.S. Ardley.

Mrs. M.A. Bridges.

Mrs. S.M. Byham.

Mr. D.G.D. Dawson.

Miss B.E.H. Finch.

Mr. G.J.C. Ince.

Mr. J.P. Ince.

Mr. C.R. Kingston.

Mrs. E.E. Marshall.

Mr. B.G. Poole.

Mr. G.H. Ripley.

Mrs. L.G.M. Seabrook.

Mr. H.V. Wheeler.

Mrs. E.L. York.

Commander F.L. Whitehouse, O.B.E., J.P., R.N., is the Chairman
of the Melford Rural District Council.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

(Figures in brackets relate to the previous year).

Area of the District.	47,270 acres.
Rateable Value. (Year ending March '69)	£520,485 (£488,983)
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£2,031. 7. 5. (£1,919. 1. 9.)
Number of inhabited houses.	6,655 (6350)
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	18,320 (17,280)

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	389 (357)	187 (172)	202 (185)
Illegitimate.	21 (15)	10 (10)	11 (5)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	410 (372)	197 (182)	213 (190)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population (adjusted) (Area Comparability Factor = 1.01)	22.6 (21.9)
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales)	16.9 (17.2)
Illegitimate birth rate.	5.1% (4.0%)

Stillbirths.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	3 (5)	1 (3)	2 (2)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	3 (5)	1 (3)	2 (2)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Total Live and Still Births.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	392 (362)	188 (175)	204 (187)
Illegitimate.	21 (15)	10 (10)	11 (5)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	413 (377)	198 (185)	215 (192)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths.

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
182 (180)	89 (99)	93 (81)

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population
(adjusted) (Area Comparability Factor = 1.03) 10.1 (10.5)

Death rate per 1,000 population (England & Wales) 11.9 (11.2)

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion. Nil.

Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths. Nil.

Infant Mortality. Number of deaths of infants under one year of age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	8 (5)	4 (4)	4 (1)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	8 (5)	4 (4)	4 (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death rate of infants under one year of age:

(a) Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	19.5	(13.4)
(b) Infant Mortality rate England and Wales.	18.0	(18.3)

Neo-Natal Mortality. Number of deaths of infants under four weeks of age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	8 (5)	4 (4)	4 (1)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	8 (5)	4 (4)	4 (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Early Neo-Natal Mortality.

Number of infants under one week of age.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Legitimate.	8 (5)	4 (4)	4 (1)
Illegitimate.	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total.	8 (5)	4 (4)	4 (1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Perinatal Mortality Rate.

(stillbirths and deaths under one week

combined, per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) 26.6 (26.5)

The causes of the eight infant deaths were as follows:-

<u>Sex.</u>	<u>Age.</u>	<u>Cause of deaths.</u>
F.	30 minutes.	Intracranial haemorrhage due to precipitate labour Placental insufficiency.
M.	15 hours.	Respiratory failure intracranial haemorrhage.
M.	21 hours.	Intracranial haemorrhage.
M.	22 hours.	Prematurity.
F.	1 day.	Respiratory failure Congenital heart lesion Prematurity.
M.	2 days.	Cardiac arrest during exchange transfusion Erythroblastosis foetalis.
F.	2 days.	Asphyxia neonatorum difficult forceps delivery short maternal stature Narrow pelvis.
F.	3 days.	Respiratory distress Prematurity.

Stillbirths.

F.	35 weeks.	Placental insufficiency.
D.	term.	Fetal asphyxia obstructed labour sacro-coccygeal tumour.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
<u>All Causes.</u>	182	89	93
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm - stomach.	3	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm - lung, bronchus.	12	10	2
Malignant Neoplasm - breast.	3	-	3
Other Malignant Neoplasm.	15	4	11
Benign & Unspecified neoplasms.	2	1	1
Diabetes mellitus.	1	-	1
Other endocrine diseases.	1	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system.	1	1	-
Chronic rheumatic heart disease.	1	1	-
Hypertensive disease.	3	-	3
Ischaemic heart disease.	42	27	15
Other forms of heart disease.	12	5	7
Cerebrovascular disease.	24	7	17
Other diseases of circulatory system.	7	4	3
Influenza.	4	2	2
Pneumonia.	16	7	9
Bronchitis & emphysema.	10	8	2
Other diseases of respiratory system.	3	1	2
Peptic ulcer.	2	1	1

Causes of death continued..

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Intestinal obstruction & hernia.	1	1	-
Cirrhosis of liver.	1	1	-
Other diseases of digestive system.	1	-	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system.	2	-	2
Birth injury difficult labour, etc.	6	2	4
Other causes of perinatal mortality.	2	2	-
Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
All other accidents.	4	2	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries.	1	-	1

Deaths from Infectious Diseases. (Including Tuberculosis but
excluding other respiratory infections.) 0.5%

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
1	-	1

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms. (all types) 18.3%

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
35	17	18

Deaths from Leukaemia, Aleukaemia. 0%

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
-	-	-

Deaths from Chest Infections & Respiratory Diseases. 18.1%
(all types except neoplasms.)

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
33	18	15

Deaths from Heart and Circulatory Diseases 45.0%
(including strokes)

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
82	40	42

Deaths from Accident, Violence and Suicide. 32.9%

<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
6	2	4

Age Incidence of deaths from certain causes.

		Under 1	1 -	5 -	15 -	25 -	35 -	45 -	55 -	65 -	75 +
Cancer of breast.	M										
	F							1			2
Cancer of Lung.	M								3	4	3
	F									1	1
Coronary Thrombosis.	M						1		1	13	12
	F								2	2	11
Cerebral Thrombosis (Strokes)	M							1		2	4
	F								1	4	12
Accidents.	M		1	1							
	F							1		1	1

SECTION B.

1. Public Health Staff.

Dr. E. Kinnear, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Part-time Medical Officer of Health who
also serves other districts.

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.
J.A.E. Burrows, Cert.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.,

Deputy Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.
I.C. Hazell, A.I.A.S., Cert. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector, whole-time.
M. Crisp, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Sewage Works Manager, whole-time.
E.A.S. Tulk, A.M., Inst, W.P.C., A.M.I.P.H.E.,

Building Inspector, whole-time.
P.D. Cutmore, Mun, B.I.

2. Ambulance Facilities.

The West Suffolk County Council is responsible for the ambulance service. There is an Ambulance Station in Sudbury.

3. Nursing in the Home.

The West Suffolk County Council's Home Nursing and Midwifery service supply six District Nurses.

4. The West Suffolk County Council provides four Child Welfare Centres in the District at Long Melford, Gt. Cornard, Glemsford and Nayland. Mothers from Melford District also use the Health Clinic in Sudbury.

5. Chiropody Services for elderly persons are arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health in conjunction with the West Suffolk Old People's Welfare Association. A domicillary service is available for those unable to reach a clinic.

6. Laboratory Facilities.

The Public Health Laboratory Services, Woodbridge Road East, Ipswich under its Medical Director Dr. P.K. Frazer, has provided bacteriological reports on water samples and other materials and advised on epidemiological matters,

Chemical analyses of water samples are performed by the Council's analysts at the Analytical Laboratory, Haywoods Heath, Sussex.

Natioanl Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and protection.

No proceedings were taken under this section during the year.

SECTION C

REPORT OF MR. J.A.E. BURROWS

Surveyor and Senior Public Health Inspector.

SEWERAGE SCHEMES

Constructional work has been carried on throughout the year at the Cornard Works, the Great Waldingfield Works (both of these being extensions to existing Works), and in the Northern Area Scheme. One section of the latter, serving the village of Alpheton and Shimpling was ready for use at the end of the year. A new length of main sewer was installed in Great Cornard to take additional flow from the new estates. The Great Waldingfield Works, as extended, now provides us, for the first time, with a controllable method of treating cesspool contents. Works to provide a sludge-press house at Long Melford Disposal Works, together with additional tanks to treat the sludge liquor, proceeded well. The necessity for heavy vehicles to reach these Works has resulted in the provision of a good concrete road in lieu of the pot-holed lane which has tried the springs of our vehicles for so long.

Looking to the future the Council's Consulting Engineers have been asked to prepare a scheme for the sewerage of Leavenheath including the enlargement of the Nayland Disposal Works. Schemes for Assington, Little Cornard, Somerton and Bridge Street, Long Melford have had to be deferred for financial reasons.

The Council decided to adopt a policy of gradually enforcing the conversion of pail closets. Work on this has started in Nayland, the first village to be sewerage, where there were still six pail closets in properties along the line of sewer.

PRIVATE CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The following Table shows how this service was required in the various parishes, giving the number of emptyings carried out. The service is provided on request for a nominal charge of 10/- paid in advance, but is not available where a sewer which can serve the property has been available for six months or more.

/ Cesspool Emptying Table, 1968

Cesspool Emptying Table, 1968

Acton	28
Assington	23
Alpheton	11
Boxted	4
Bures	21
Chilton	14
Great Cornard	13
Little Cornard	44
Glensford	28
Hartest	4
Lawshall	111
Leavenheath	133
Long Melford	12
Nayland-with-Wissington	17
Newton	9
Shimpling	12
Somerton	4
Stanstead	-
Stoke-by-Nayland	34
Great Waldingfield	20
Little Waldingfield	4

<u>Total</u>	546
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10 privy emptyings were carried out.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCE

The public convenience at Long Melford has been well maintained throughout the year with very little vandalism and that of a minor character. It would appear to serve its purpose well, particularly during the tourist season.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION SCHEME

This service in its very reduced form continues to serve a few Council houses without sewers and a few private houses. Notice has been given to the latter that this service will terminate in October, 1969.

/REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEME

REFUSE COLLECTION SCHEME

The purchase of a 35 cu.yd. Crushload vehicle in April gave the opportunity to re-arrange the collection programmes and institute a five-day week. Saturday mornings are used as required for the collection of bulky household refuse and factory wastes.

Under the provisions of the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, a total of 32 cars or car bodies and one motor-cycle were removed, nine of them after service of statutory notices.

MEAT INSPECTION

There are three retail butchers and one wholesale/retail butcher with licensed slaughterhouses in the District. One of the retail butchers did not kill throughout the year. During the period April to June, because of illness and change of staff, only one inspector was available and inspections were therefore concentrated on the larger slaughterhouse. Because of this, 31 cattle, 34 pigs and 7 sheep were not inspected.

		CATTLE	CALVES	SHEEP LAMBS	PIGS
<u>TOTAL slaughtered</u>		3013	19	1699	5925
<u>TOTAL inspected</u>		2982	19	1692	5891
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis	Whole carcasses condemned	-	3	-	69
	Number of carcasses part of which was condemned	635	1	33	546
	% affected	21.29	21.05	1.95	10.42
Tuberculosis only	Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
	Number of carcasses part of which was condemned	2	-	-	130
	% affected	0.06	-	-	2.20
Cysticercosis only	Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
	Number of carcasses part of which was condemned	19	-	-	-
	% affected	0.63	-	-	-

/POULTRY INSPECTION

POULTRY INSPECTION

A shortage of staff made it impossible for visits to be made to the poultry packing station for a period of two months and at the end of August the station was closed following an outbreak of disease amongst the birds.

The number of birds condemned and the reasons for this are set out below.

Poultry Condemned

	<u>Numbers</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Tumours	104	445
Emaciated	126	261
Truama	52	225
Moribund	73	313
Dead in Crate	1	4
Bacterial Disease	95	286
Ascites	44	179
Culled	1	4
Asphyxiation	2	10
Paralysis	1	4
	<hr/> 499 <hr/>	<hr/> 1,731 <hr/>

FOOD COMPLAINTS

Four complaints regarding food were received from members of the public.

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS

The following were condemned:-

26 tins of fruit.

1 tin of meat.

Following the breakdown of refrigerating equipment 583 chicken carcasses (3,203 lbs.), 1,520 lbs. of chicken portions and 80 lbs. of chicken livers were condemned.

At school canteens, following complaints, 11½ lbs. of pork and 59 lbs. of frozen lamb were certified as unfit for consumption.

11 turkey carcasses were similarly certified at a local firm where they had been intended for Christmas distribution, but had been allowed to thaw out before delivery.

FOOD HYGIENE

52 general food premises were visited.

OFFICES, SHOPS and RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

23 visits to registered premises were made.

No serious contraventions were observed. No accidents were reported. Employers co-operated satisfactorily in securing compliance with the Act following informal notices.

<u>Class</u>	<u>Premises Registered during year</u>	<u>Total No. Premises Registered</u>	<u>No. of first inspections</u>	<u>No. of persons employed</u>
Offices	1	11	1	78
Retail Shops	—	35	—	90
Wholesale shops and Warchouses	—	1	1	9
Catering Establishments and Canteens	1	10	—	60
Fuel Storage Depots	—	1	1	2
<u>TOTALS</u>	2	58	3	239 (Males 119 Females 120)

RODENT CONTROL

No change in the routine inspection and treatment work carried out by the Rodent Operator.

HOUSING

90 private dwellings were completed during the year as against 175 for the previous year.

Those completed were distributed through the District as follows:-

Nayland	15
Glomsford	11
Lawshall	11
Gt. Cornard	10
Long Melford	10
Newton	10
Acton	6
Gt. Waldingfield	6
Lt. Waldingfield	3
Lt. Cornard	3
Hartest	2
Stanstead	2
Assington	1

/G.L.C. development

HOUSING contd.

G.L.C. development continued at Great Cornard, a further 135 dwellings being completed to bring the total to 639.

494 proposals under the Town and Country Planning Acts and/or the Building Regulations were received.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Standard Grants

41 dwellings were improved with the aid of Standard Grants. The total cost of the works done was £21,577 of which £8,354 was repaid in Grants. This averaged a cost of £526 per dwelling with £203 as Grant.

Discretionary Grants.

16 dwellings were improved with the aid of Discretionary Grants. The total cost of the work done was £20,927 ranging from £4,508 to £2,936 per house. In all cases the maximum permissible Grant was given.

HOUSING ACT, 1957

Three Closing Orders and three Demolition Orders were made.

SECTION E

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
FACTORIES ACT, 1961

I. Inspections for the purpose of Provisions as to Health (including
inspections made by Public Health Inspector.

	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1.2.3.4 & 6 are enforced by Local Authorities.	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities.	49	43	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-worker's premises)	-	48	-	-
<u>Total</u>	49	91	-	-

II. Cases in which DEFECTS were found = Nil.

III. Part VIII - OUTWORKERS.

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>Number</u>
Making wearing apparel etc.	2
Making firework casings	9
	<hr/>
<u>Total</u>	<u>11</u>

SECTION D.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Scarlet Fever.	31	21	10
Whooping Cough.	21	8	13
Measles.	32	11	21
Acute Penumonia.	39	22	17
Food Poisoning.	3	3	-
Infective Jaundice.	4	2	2
 Tuberculosis, respiratory.	 3	 3	 -
 Totals:-	 <u>133</u>	 <u>70</u>	 <u>63</u>

There was one female death from Tuberculosis in 1968.

